

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated 28 October 2004, applicant has amended claims 2, 6, 9, 34, 64, and 90, and cancelled claims 35 and 96. Claims 1, 8, 10 – 33, 33 – 63, 70 – 89, and 100 – 104 were previously cancelled. Claims 2 – 7, 9, 34, 64 – 69, 90 – 95, and 97 – 99 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 2, 6, 9, and 64 were amended in response to the objections of paragraph one of the Office Action. Applicant added a few additional words to separately call out the first and second remote data processor devices in order for the claim language to read a little bit more clearly. Applicant believes that these claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 6, 34, and 90 were rejected under § 103(a) as unpatentable over Moura in view of Ghaibeh. Such rejection is respectfully traversed insofar as it relates to the amended claims.

Claim 34 was amended to incorporate the features of claim 35, which had previously been indicated as allowable. Claim 90 was amended to incorporate the features of claim 96, which was previously indicated as allowable. Claims 34 and 90, and all of their dependent claims, are therefore now believed in condition for allowance.

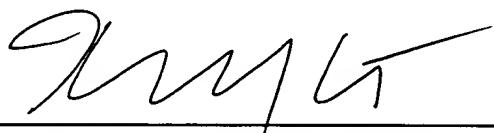
With respect to claim 6, the '338 patent to Ghaibeh, was cited as teaching forward error correction in control packets. However, the Ghaibeh reference clearly teaches a system having a single control interface to the remote nodes. In contrast, claim 6 provides for independent upstream and downstream

controllers for, respectively, receiving and transmitting control packets. There is no suggestion in the Ghaibeh reference that forward error correction techniques could be used in combination with such a system.

Therefore, applicant believes that claims 6 and 7 as currently amended are also allowable over the references.

In light of the above amendments, applicant believes that all claims currently remaining in the application are allowable over the cited references. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of such claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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